



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

For Planning Purposes Only
Embargo Until: August 27, 2002

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Advocates of Open Space and Political Leaders to Outline Next Steps for Congressional Action in Effort to Open Mt. Umunhum in South Bay to Public

Mountain Peak Offers Expansive Views of S.F. Bay, Silicon Valley and Monterey Bay

What:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, political leaders, and open space advocates will give an update on efforts to secure federal funding for clean-up of toxins, asbestos, and unsafe decrepit buildings at the former military site atop Mt. Umunhum, and will outline next steps in campaign to provide public access to the 15,525-acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve in which Mt. Umunhum is located.

This is a rare opportunity to gain access to the top of Mt. Umunhum (just a few miles from San Jose), tour the former Almaden Air Force Station, and witness expansive views of the S.F. Bay, Monterey Bay, Silicon Valley, and habitat for rare plants and wildlife, including mountain lions and raptors, whose survival requires nearly 100 square miles of open space range.

Who:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, District Ward 1 Director Pete Siemens
U.S. Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose)
San Jose City Councilmember Patricia Dando
"Friends of Mt. Umunhum"

When:

Tuesday, August 27, 11:15 a.m. sharp (to join convoy) to 2:00 p.m. **Due to logistical challenges inherent in reaching Mt. Umunhum, late arrival may prevent access. Please be punctual!**

Where:

Meet at the Los Gatos Christian Church at 16845 Hicks Road for distribution of media vehicle permits, and a coordinated "convoy" through all gates to the mountaintop.

Notes:

- 1) A helicopter landing zone is available, with 24 hours prior notice. Aerial photography is magnificent and encouraged!
- 2) Ms. Jensen will be reachable by cell phone until approximately 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, August 27 at (510) 543-8900.
- 3) DO NOT expect cellular phones to work atop Mt. Umunhum.

For more information about The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, please visit:
<http://www.openspace.org/>